

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

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FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1082

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

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AGFMBASSY THE HAGUE 320

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AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

USEC BRUSSELS 1011

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 1086

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ELAB, PINT, SP

SUBJECT: "CARABANCHEL TEN" PETITION REPORTEDLY FIRST

UNITED OPPOSITION ACTION UNDER FRANCO REGIME

REF MADRID 1032

BEGIN SUMMARY: "CARABANCHEL TEN" CASE STILL AROUSING INTEREST  
DUE TO DRAMATIC CONTINUING HUNGER STRIKE OF CARABNACHEL TEN  
IN PRISON, PENDING SUPREME COURT DECISION ON WHETHER OR NOT  
TO CONFIRM SENTENCES. LATEST SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENT, HOWEVER,  
INVOLVES A PETITION SUBMITTED JOINTLY TO PRESIDENT ARIAS  
BY NEARLY ALL OPPOSITION GROUPS, WHICH REPORTEDLY MAY BE  
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FIRST TIME UNDER FRANCO REGIME THAT USUALLY FEUDING

OPPOSITION GROUPS HAVE AGREED TO UNITED ACTION ON ANYTHING.  
END SUMMARY.

1. CARABANCHEL TEN CASE STILL IN NEWS, FOLLOWING FEB 11 SUPREME COURT APPEALS HEARING, DUE TO CONTINUING HUNGER STRIKE WHICH CARABANCHEL TEN INITIATED ON DATE OF HEARING. ONE OF HUNGER STRIKERS, FERNANDO SOTO, IS REPORTEDLY IN CARZENCHEL PRISON HOSPITAL, WHERE HE IS ALSO RECOVERING FROM A RECNT HERNIA OPERATION, AND THERE ALSO SOME CONCERN FOR MARCELINO CAMACHO'S PARTICIPATION IN HUNGER STRIKE DUE TO CAMACHO'S WELL-KNOWN HEART CONDITION. IT UNCEAR WHETHER PREIST, FATHER GARCIA SALVE, HAS JOINED HIS NINE COMMUNIST WORKER COMMISSIONS COLLEAGUES IN HUNGER STRIKE SINCE, UNLIKE OTHERS, GARCIA SALVE REPORTEDLY AT SPECIAL ECCLESIASTICAL PRISON IN ZAMORA.

2. NO INDICATION WHEN SUPREME COURT DECISION IN CASE WILL BE ANNOUNCED, BUT SHOULD BE AT SOME POINT DURING NEXT TWO WEEKS, ASSUMING PREVIOUS PRACTICE IS FOLLOWED. A DEFENSE

LAWYER TOLD LABATT THAT, IF DECISION IS TO COMMUTE SENTENCES, IT MOST LIKELY TO BE ANNOUNCED SOME DAYS PRIOR PRESIDENT ARIAS PROMISED FEB 26 MAJOR SPEECH, SO THAT ANY CREDIT FOR CLEMENCY WILL GO TO GOVT, BUT THAT IF DECISION IS TO MAINTAIN FIRM CURRENT 12-20 YEAR SENTENCES, THEN DECISION LIKELY TO BE ANNOUNCED AFTER FEB 26, SO THAT EXPECTED STORM OF PROTEST IT WOULD ENGENDER WOULD NOT AFFECT SPEECH.

3. PERHAPS MOST IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENT RE RECENT APPEALS HEARING WAS A PETITION TO PRESIDENT ARIAS SIGNED BY 38 LEADERS FROM ENTIRE SPANISH OPPOSITION SPECTRUM, CALLING ON GOVT TO RELEASE "CARABANCHEL TEN" AND CITING THIS CASE AS A PRIME EXAMPLE OF ABSENCE OF ELEMENTARY TRADE UNION RIGHTS IN SPAIN.

4. AMONG 38 SIGNATURES ON THIS PETITION ARE THOSE OF NEARLY ALL PRINCIPAL LEADERS OF OPPOSITION GROUPS IN SPAIN, INCLUDING MONARCHIST LEADER JOAQUIN SATRUSTEGUI, CENTRIST CATHOLIC LEADER JOSE MARIA GIL ROBLES, LEFT CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC LEADER JOAQUIN RUIZ GIMENEZ, USDE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC LEADER DIONISIO RIDRUEJOCQ PSP SOCIALIST LEADER TIerno GALVAN, SPANISH COMMUNIST PARTY LEADER SIMON SANCHEZ  
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MONTERO, AND COMMUNIST WORKERS COMMISSIONS LEADER JULIAN ARIZA. ADDITIONALLY THERE ARE SIGNATURES OF LEADERS OF SOCIALIST PSOE PARTY, OF ITS AFFILIATED SOCIALIST UGT TRADE UNION, OF THE CATALAN SOCIALIST ALLIANCE, OF THE MODERATE CATHOLIC-ORIENTED USO TRADE UNION, AND OF THE EXTREMIST CATHOLIC ORT LOBOR ORGANIATION (LATTER IS MAIN NON-COMMUNIST COMPENENT OF WORKERS COMISSIONS).

5. COMMENT: FACT THAT NEARLY ALL MAJOR NATIONAL-LEVEL SPANISH OPPOSITION POLITICAL, AS WELL AS TRADE UNION, GROUPS ARE REPRESENTED BY THE SIGNATURES OF THEIR LEADERS ON THE ABOVE PETITION IS HIGHLY SIGNIFICANT. THIS APPEARS BE FIRST TIME IN HISTORY OF RANCO SPAIN THAT ALL THESE DIVERSE MAJOR GROUPS, RANGING FROM OPPOSITION MONARCHISTS ON THE RIGHT TO COMMUNISTS ON THE LEFT, HAVE AGREED TO ACT TOGETHER ON ANYTHING. REPORTEDLY IT TOOK INTENSE NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE VARIOUSLIGROUPS TO REACH AGREEMENT ON A TEXT ACCEPTABLE TO ALL. ALSO REPORTEDLY THE COMMUNISTS AND PSP SOCIALISTS WANTED PETITION TO MAKE REFERENCE TO DEMOCRATIC JUNTA, ON WHICH THEY PARTICIPATE, BUT THE OTHER OPPOSITION GROUPS REFUSED.

6. ANOTHER POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICAN ASPECT THIS UNITED OPPOSITION PETITION IS THAT, ALTHOUGH IT SUPPOSEDLY HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH DEMOCRATIC JUNTA, ITS SIGNERS INCLUDE REPS OF MOST OF POLITICAL AND TRADE UNION GROUPS CURRENTLY IN BOTH DEMOCRATIC JUNTA AND IN RIVAL DEMOCRATIC CONFERENCE COALITION (WHICH HAS DECIDED AGAINST FORMALLY CONSTITUTING ITSELF INTO THE DEMOCRATIC CONFERNENCE, BUT IS STILL ACTING TOGETHER AS AD HOC GROUP VIS-VIS DEMOCRATIC JUNTA), AS WELL AS MONARCHISTS OF JOAQUIN SATRUSTEGUI'S UNION ESPANOLA GROUPING AND THE CATHOLIC USO TRADE UNION GROUPING (LATTER TWO GROUPS DO NOT BELONG TO EITHER COALITION). THERE HAVE BEEN SOME RECENT SUGGESTIONS FOR THE DISSOLUTION OF BOTH ABOVE COALITIONS AND THE CONSTITUTION OF A BROAD OEFNEW UNITED OPPOSITION COALITION ALLIANCE WHICH WOULD INCLUDE ALL THE ABOVE GROUPS. THUS, ALTHOUGH THIS IS REPORTEDLY NOT THE INTENTION OF THE ABOVE PETITION, IT COULD SERVE AS A PRECEDENT OR MODEL FOR POSSIBLE UNITED OPPOSITION ACTION SHOULD THE EFFORTS, SO FAR UNSUCCESSFUL, TO ESTABLISH SUCH A BROAD NEW COALITION ALLIANCE BEAR

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FRUIT. (STATUS REPORT ON DEMOCRATIC JUNTA AND DEMOCRATIC CONFERENCE BEING REPORTED SEPTTEL.)

7 PETITION, WHICH FOLLOWS CLOSELY PETITIONS BY SUCH GROUPS AS JOURNALISTS, PROTESTING POLICE HARASSMENT, AND CIVIL SERVANTS, DEMANDING RIGHT TO ORGANIZE, IS ANOTHER DISPLAY OF INCREASED BOLDNESS AMONG SPANIARDS IN CURRENT HEATED POLITICAL CLIMATE TO CONFRONT GOVT OPENLY WITH THEIR DEMANDS.

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